

Today's News - Friday, January 23, 2015

- Calys tries to grok the demise of Architecture for Humanity: "At this point, it's immaterial whose fault it was. The future of socially responsible design may hang in the balance."
- Post-disaster humanitarian "is more than just supplying shelter" - a call for architects and engineers to get on the same page.
- Eyeful of latest, though not final, designs by Mecanoo/Martinez+Johnson for the renovation of Mies's MLK Memorial Library in Washington, DC.
- Rosenbaum reviews preliminary renderings Holl's "suavely handsome" building for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and thinks it "will be well worth the wait and will make Houston a must-see destination for avid art-and-architecture buffs."
- After a rendering appeared on Facebook, the Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance "decided it was time to go public."
- Big plans by SHoP, Dattner, Handel, and Beyer Blinder Belle for a six acres in Manhattan's Lower East Side (affordable housing and Warhol Museum included).
- A Chinese firm builds the tallest 3D printed building - a five-story apartment block (and 3D-printed mansions, too!), indicating "the possible implications this form of construction could have on housing affordability, access, and customization" in our future.
- ASLA has big plans to transform its Washington, DC HQ into a new Center for Landscape Architecture "that reflects the complexity and vitality of our profession" - with the help of Gensler and Oehme, van Sweden (and a lotta friends).
- Weekend diversions (and lots of 'em, since we didn't post last Friday):
 - Lerner lauds MoMA's intentions in "Uneven Growth," but in the end, it disappoints (a most thoughtful, in-depth review).
 - In Coral Gables, "Miami 2100: Envisioning a Resilient Second Century" looks at planning for climate change and sea level rise in Greater Miami.
 - The traveling exhibit "Rebuild by Design" lands at AIA HQ in DC.
- "Treatise: Why Write Alone?" at Chicago's Graham Foundation "brings together 14 young design offices to consider the architectural treatise as a site for theoretical inquiry, experimentation, and debate."
- "Production Routes" at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art explores the why and where large, prefabricated concrete panels became popular between 1931-81, with films and models that "portray the ambivalence of modern housing projects" (some great pix).
- "When the Future Had Fins: American Automotive Designs and Concepts, 1959 - 1973," at Christopher W. Mount Gallery in L.A., "is a rare opportunity to see some great drawings that never came to fruition" (they're luscious!).
- Moore and Walker are quite taken by a new documentary about Sérgio Bernardes, "a star of 60s Brazil, a brilliant architect and a mesmerizing man. And then almost forgotten."
- Shiffman says "The Architecture of Change: Building a Better World" "is an inspiring homage to the writing and legacy of Kingsley Hammett" - and "a must-read."
- Goldin hails Suisman's "Los Angeles Boulevard: Eight X-Rays of the Body Public": it "remains today, as it was 25 years ago, a contrarian essay fashioned with an urbane and civilized pen...remains a guide, even if the road ahead is unclear."
- Grozdanic cheers Martin's "The Architecture of David Lynch": his "readiness to inhabit often uncomfortable and dangerous places in order to gain new insights is his ultimate legacy to both filmmakers and architects."
- Ferro is fascinated by Jetsonen's "Saarinen Houses" - "all of which look eminently livable and human-scale, not just beautiful."

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The demise of Architecture for Humanity: whither socially responsible design? At this point, it's immaterial whose fault it was...The future of socially responsible design may hang in the balance...The many years of good work by AfH deserved to be continued and expanded. By George Calys -- Cameron Sinclair; Kate Stohr- San Francisco Examiner

Disaster relief: humanitarian architecture for post-disaster shelter: ...post-disaster provision is more than just supplying shelter. It's about involving communities in places of uncertainty and rapid change... -- Esther Charlesworth/Architects without Frontiers; Shigeru Ban/Voluntary Architects Network; Maggie Stephenson; David Sanderson; Lizzie Babister- E&T magazine / Institution of Engineering and Technology (UK)

D.C. Historic Preservation Board to Review MLK Memorial Library Renovation Project: A look at the latest, though not final, designs for the renovation of the only library ever designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. -- Mecanoo Architecten; Martinez+Johnson Architecture [images]- Architect Magazine

"Translucent Complementary Contrast": Steven Holl's Alluring Expansion of Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: Judging from his preliminary renderings...for a suavely handsome, 164,000 square-foot-building...will be well worth the wait and will make Houston a must-see destination for avid art-and-architecture buffs. By Lee Rosenbaum [images]- ArtsJournal

First look at new facility the Dallas Holocaust Museum/Center for Education and Tolerance hopes to build in West End: ...at the end of last week a rendering...appeared on Facebook. After being asked about the plans...Higgins decided it was time to go public. -- Omniplan [images]- Dallas Morning News

Four towers by SHoP, Dattner, Handel, and Beyer Blinder Belle to break ground at Essex Crossing: ...four decades in the making...six-acre swath of land in Manhattan's Lower East Side...Seward Park Urban Renewal Area (SPURA)... will provide 1,000 units of affordable, market rate, and senior housing...relocated Essex Market, a bowling alley, the Warhol Museum, and a rooftop urban farm. -- Handel Architects; Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners; Dattner Architects; SHoP Architects; West 8 [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Chinese firm builds tallest 3D printed building: As the potential for 3D printed buildings only begins to dawn in the US and Europe, WinSun has already built...a five-storey apartment block, as well as the world's first 3D printed mansion...its success indicating the possible implications this form of construction could have on housing affordability, access and customisation. [images]- Australian Design Review

Help ASLA Create a New Center for Landscape Architecture: "We're committed to creating a space for ASLA's national headquarters that reflects the complexity and vitality of our profession"... -- Gensler; Oehme, van Sweden [images]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Growing Pains: People have been devising small, spontaneous fixes for the inadequacies of city life as long as there have been cities...Now tactical urbanism has been validated by MOMA...There's plenty wrong with "Uneven Growth: Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities"; for one not insignificant thing, its visual presentation is chaotic and frequently baffling. But most important, all six proposals disappoint...further weakened for failing to draw on landscape architecture. By Jonathan Lerner -- Mike Lydon/Street Plans Collaborative; RUA Arquitetos; MAS Urban Design; ETH Zurich; Superpool; Atelier d'Architecture Autogérée; URBZ; Ensemble Studio/MIT-POPlab; NLÉ; Zaha Hadid/Inteligencias Colectivas; MAP Office; Network Architecture Lab- Landscape Architecture Magazine

"Miami 2100: Envisioning a Resilient Second Century": an exhibition about planning for climate change and sea level rise in Greater Miami presented by the Florida International University School of Architecture; Coral Gables Museum-

Coral Gables Museum (Florida)

Reinforcing Coastal Resiliency: 10 projects focused on post-Hurricane Sandy landscapes, ecologies, and communities showcased in "Rebuild by Design," a traveling exhibit now on view at AIA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. -- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Interboro Partners; MIT CAU + ZUS + Urbanisten; PennDesign/OLIN; SCAPE/LANDSCAPE Architecture; etc. - AIArchitect

"Treatise: Why Write Alone?": ...an exhibition and publication project brings together 14 young design offices to consider the architectural treatise as a site for theoretical inquiry, experimentation, and debate; Graham Foundation, Chicago. -- Jimenez Lai/Bureau Spectacular; Bittertang; CAMES/gibson; Design With Company; FAKE Industries; First Office; Pieterjan Ginckels; is-office; Andrew Kovacs; Alex Maymind; Norman Kelley; Point Supreme; SOFTlab; Young & Ayata [images]- Graham Foundation (Chicago)

"Production Routes" explores a transnational circulation of prefabricated large concrete panels patented between 1931and 1981...films and models portray the ambivalence of modern housing projects; at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art [images]- Tel Aviv Museum of Art

American automobile sketches on view at LA's Christopher W. Mount Gallery: "When the Future Had Fins: American Automotive Designs and Concepts, 1959–1973"...Unless you're able to sneak into one of Detroit's fortresslike design labs, this show is a rare opportunity to see some great drawings that never came to fruition. [images]- Architectural Digest

Sérgio Bernardes: the beautiful and the damned: ...was a star of 60s Brazil, a brilliant architect and a mesmerising man. And then almost forgotten. His grandson, also an architect, has made a film to discover what happened: Despite his manifest failings and failures, the overwhelming mood of the film is awe and admiration for this life force. By Rowan Moore [images]- Observer (UK)

New Documentary Chronicles the Rise and Fall of Brazil's Sérgio Bernardes: ...directed by Paulo de Barros and Gustavo Gama Rodrigues, the film explores the series of events that led Bernardes to anonymity...told from the eyes of his grandson Thiago, who is also an architect, as he attempts to understand the charismatic and mysterious figure that was his grandfather. By Connor Walker [images]- ArchDaily

Spread the Wealth: "The Architecture of Change: Building a Better World" by Jerilou Hammett and Maggie Wrigley is an inspiring homage to the writing and legacy of Kingsley Hammett, the founder and co-producer, along with his wife Jerilou Hammett, of the journal, DESIGNER/builder...timely release helps to sustain and inform a discourse unleashed by the proponents of "Architecture for the other 99 percent" and those who launched "Occupy Design"...a must-read. By Ronald Shiffman [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Street Smarts: Greg Goldin reads Doug Suisman's book, "Los Angeles Boulevard: Eight X-Rays of the Body Public"...remains today, as it was 25 years ago, a contrarian essay fashioned with an urbane and civilized pen...remains a guide, even if the road ahead is unclear. - The Architect's Newspaper

Beyond the Red Room: "The Architecture of David Lynch" by Richard Martin: Particularly interesting is the way that Lynch treats the concept of neighborhoods and spatial borders...readiness to inhabit often uncomfortable and dangerous places in order to gain new insights is his ultimate legacy to both filmmakers and architects. By Lidija Grozdanic [images]- Architizer

The Remarkably Intimate Houses Of Father-Son Architects Eliel And Eero Saarinen: "Saarinen Houses" by Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen focuses on the small-scale projects of the Finnish-American architecture family...all of which look eminently livable and human-scale, not just beautiful. By Shauncy Ferro [images]- Fast Company / Co. Design

-- "Friedensreich Hundertwasser - 1928-2000" by Wieland Schmied: an inspirational portrait of one of the most prolific artists of the 20th century....his sustainable principles are highly compelling and should warrant consideration by architects today.

-- What's On? Architectural Exhibitions, January 2015 edition: Russian avant-garde, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin; Studio Mumbai, Bordeaux; Highrise City Frankfurt, DAM; "Architecture in Uniform," MAXXI, Rome; National Building Museum, Washington, DC; "After Hurricane Sandy - Rebuild by Design," Aedes am Pfefferberg, Berlin

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